

But, to be honest, we have to do more than talk about the potential that clean and safe energy has for this country.

We have to provide the mechanisms to bring these energy sources to market and make changes in energy policy to encourage their use.

And that's exactly what H.R. 3221 does.

It encourages the efficient use of energy by creating new and stronger appliance and green building standards, and it promotes smart grid technology and plug-in hybrids.

It also takes important steps toward restoring sound stewardship to the management of our public lands by ensuring responsible domestic energy development.

And it creates a comprehensive framework to help address the negative impacts of global warming on our wildlife, public lands, oceans, and coasts.

While I greatly appreciate the hard work that has gone into crafting this legislation, I look forward to the House doing more.

Like increasing fuel economy standards for cars and trucks, increasing the use of home-grown renewables like wind and solar by requiring more electricity come from these resources, and adopting a national policy to deal with global warming.

Madam Speaker, the American people want real, meaningful solutions to our nation's energy challenges.

The leadership in the last Congress was driven by a futile desire to drill our way to energy independence.

It attempted to do that by lavishing huge tax breaks on Big Oil and neglecting efforts to reduce demand and encourage clean energy.

This bill delivers on the Democratic majority's promise of a new energy future.

It will strengthen national security, promote economic growth and create jobs, lower energy prices and begin to combat the serious threat of global warming.

I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation because it will pave the way to a cleaner and more sustainable energy future.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3221, the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security and Consumer Protection Act.

This important legislation combines recommendations from 10 different committees to put us on a path to true energy independence.

It creates new energy efficiency standards to reduce demand; it supports the development and distribution of green power from renewable energy sources; and it spurs further innovation and research on alternative energy sources.

This is also a jobs creation bill designed to prepare the United States to compete in and help lead the green global marketplace of the future.

It trains a new generation of workers with green skills, it assists and empowers small businesses to cut costs and scale up innovative energy solutions, and it ensures that research investments in green technology will translate to new, good paying, green jobs.

This bill helps our nation respond to the growing threat of global warming by accelerating the use of renewable energy and cutting greenhouse gas emissions, encouraging mass transit, and expanding carbon capture and sequestration programs.

The bill also recognizes that we must lead by example at home and abroad. It requires

the Federal Government to become carbon neutral by 2050, implements green building standards and greens Federal vehicle fleets; and it attempts to reengage us in binding global agreements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Speaker these initiatives all build upon work that is already taking place throughout our great nation. In many ways the California Bay Area and my district in particular are at the forefront of innovation and research on alternative energy, climate change and the environment.

Ongoing research into alternative and renewable energy at UC Berkeley—one of the premier public universities in the country—holds the promise of a cleaner and brighter future for our children.

Businesses in my district have also taken the lead in greening their activities to reduce waste, improve energy efficiency, and save water—minimizing their impact on our environment.

Innovative programs funded in part through the City of Oakland are also training youth in my district about the importance of environmental stewardship and are providing them with new job opportunities and new career paths.

Community based organizations in my district have also taken the lead in advocating for environmental justice and equity for all our constituents.

Together our community is at the forefront of a robust environmental movement that is quite literally changing the world for the better.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 3221 and to help accelerate these efforts in my district and throughout the Nation.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3221, The New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act. This landmark Energy Independence legislation will help make our nation more secure by reducing our dependence on foreign oil; reduce costs to consumers by promoting greater efficiency and smarter technology; create new American jobs; and make our Nation a leader in reducing global warming.

H.R. 3221 reduces our dependence on foreign oil in a number of important ways. It makes the largest investment in history to improve how we grow, produce, transport, and store biofuels that will fuel our cars and trucks. It provides a plug-in hybrid vehicle tax credit for individuals and encourages the domestic development and production of advanced technology vehicles and the next generation of plug-in hybrid vehicles. The initiative also includes tax incentives for biking to work, encourages people to take mass transit, and promotes cleaner buses, ferries, and trains. In addition, H.R. 3221 repeals subsidies and tax giveaways to Big Oil.

The New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act contains a number of provisions to lower energy costs to consumers, including landmark energy efficiency provisions that would save consumers and businesses at least \$300 billion through 2030. It would reduce energy costs to consumers through more energy efficient appliances, such as dishwashers, clothes washers, refrigerators and freezers and assist consumers with improving efficiency of existing homes, as well as building energy efficient new homes. H.R. 3221

also extends existing tax credits for the production of renewable energy, including solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, hydro, landfill gas and trash combustion, as well as creating new incentives for the use and production of renewable energy.

The major investments in renewable energy technologies included in this bill have the potential to create 3 million new American jobs over 10 years. The bill creates an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program to train a quality workforce for "green" jobs. To spur innovation, H.R. 3221 creates an Energy Department agency to coordinate high-risk, high-payoff energy technology research and development that private industry is not likely to pursue on its own. The bill increases loan limits to help small business develop energy efficient technologies and purchases; provides information and assistance to small business to reduce energy costs; and increases investment in small firms that are developing renewable energy solutions.

Finally, H.R. 3221 takes major steps to reduce global warming. Its energy efficiency provisions will not only save consumers and businesses money, but will also reduce carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 10.4 billion tons through 2030, more than the annual emissions of all of the cars on the road in America today. This initiative calls on the U.S. to re-engage and lead the global effort on a binding global warming agreement, with commitments from all the major emitters including China, India, and Brazil. Because the federal government is the largest energy consumer in the United States, the bill promotes federal leadership on reducing global warming by requiring federal government operations to be carbon-neutral by 2050. These provisions will save taxpayers \$7.5 billion through 2030. Finally, this initiative takes aggressive steps on carbon capture and sequestration to come up with a cleaner way to use coal. The United States must lead the way in developing this critical technology to reduce global warming throughout the world.

I would also like to address the important amendment to this bill offered by Representatives UDALL and PLATTS, which I will support. The Udall/Platts amendment creates a national renewable energy standard (RES) requiring electric utilities to provide a gradually increasing amount of their electricity through the use of renewable energy resources. A national RES would save consumers billions of dollars from lower energy bills and create tens of thousands of new jobs.

The amendment's initial requirement, in year 2010, is 2.75 percent of a utility's electricity. This gradually increases to 15 percent by 2020. The amendment permits utilities to meet up to 27 percent of their targeted requirement through energy efficiency savings (the equivalent of up to 4 percent of the 15 percent requirement). It gives credit for existing renewables. In addition, utilities get credit for all actions taken pursuant to a state portfolio standard associated with renewable electric generation. I believe this gradual, flexible approach is a reasonable way to provide the right incentives and market signals to diversify our electricity supply with clean, renewable energy sources that will help keep our air and water clean and start us down a path that will combat global warming.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public